LEHIGH VALLEY

COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

THIS WEEK-MONDAY

We imagine that by now nearly everyone has seen the Morning Call and the Evening Chronicle newspapers for Monday, October 24th. Just in case you did not, gay rights id reported as dead. DON'T YOU BELEIVE IT! What has occurred is a stroke of good fortune. The gross advertisment placed by the Citizens Caucus, because of the really offensive nature of it, has given the Citizens Caucus a black eye, and very likelyhad none of the results they intended because by nightfall gay rights was reported as dead. Therefore, the coupon clippers had no reason to respond to the ad with either money or even a reply. On top of that, the advertisment is estimated to have cost them several hundreds of dollars to run twice- a lot of money from any organizations treasury. Finally, the name of Frank McVeigh, cheif spokesperson for the opposition was prominently connected to the ad.

Clearly, the stategy of the opposition was to inject the issue of gay rights into the campaign. They know that candidates would have to say no to gay rights during elections or risk the possible loss of votes. The only no they have collected now is Mayor Dadonna's. No one else had to take a stand, and Dadonna answered for them all.

The public, then,has been put to sleep. The opposition, well aware that there are several ways to acheive gay rights will not have much success in stirring anybody up about gay rights. In the meantime, we are free to quietly go about our business. We will not start any rumors about what may be happening behind the scenes. Suffice it to say that we are making progress, and that at this time we are well satisfied with events.

Also on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday , the Morning Call ran a fine series of articles on gays and religion we hope you did not miss.

MEETINGS- THE NEXT ONE

The next meeting of the Coalition is scheduled for Wednesday Evening, Nov. 2nd, at 7:30. The location is CONFRONT, 1130 Walnut Street. The program is slated to be a panel on "Developing a Pro-Gay Rights Stance", presented by several members of the Coalition who presented our case to the Human Relations Commission. Also on the agenda are progress reports on the pamphlet , support statements, and o other actions; the petition; a proposed name change for the organization to Lehigh Valley Citizens Concerned for a Better Community (like the moral tone of it?); a proposal to add more organization (that is officers and the like); and new actions.

Mark Segal, noted Philadelphia gay activist, is tenatively scheduled for the program on Tuesday, November 15th. Mark will be sharing with us some of the experiences and advice of the Philadelphia gay community in their unsuccessful bid for rights last year. Tell your friends, Mark is an exciting person wherever he goes.

THE LAST MEETING

Twenty four people came out for the meeting. And we wish to commend them for their generosity, $12.70 was collected for the cause.

Bob Steelman presented the arguments of Dr. Frank McVeigh against gay rights, which he presented at a meeting of Citizens Organized for Decency, the group formed to oppose gay rights. Briefly, Mcveigh says

1) Gays are not a minority- as are Blacks, Jews, or handicapped persons though no fault of their own.
2) homosexuality is a learned behavior, not inherited nor the result of any physical cause
3) Therefore, gays free choose to be gay, and deserve to suffer the consequences of th their choice in the face of having other choices.
4) most people think gays are deviate and abnormal- just as they once thought the e earth was flat
5) gays don"t suffer discrimination, rather, people "evaluate" their behavior and reject them on account of it
6) gay rights violate the rights of the majority not to be forced to accept association with them, nor their immoral activities
7) No larger social good comes from the practice of homosexuality
8) Social harms result from gays
   a) they treat persons as sexual objects rather than as persons
   b) they ruin the family structure
   c) they hurt parents by being gay
   d) they harm the young- by being wrong models, and they molest children
   e) they "cause" venereal disease
   f) their refusal to procreate adds more decline to already declining population (Allentown showed a decrease of 4,000 last census)
   g) their rights would add to more decline because of the number of families and persons who would leave town if gay rights were granted.
9) homosexuality is illegal
10) moral and religious grounds- which he assumed everyone knew and he did not elaborate on them.

Frank also said, "We call them HOMOSEXUALS. To admit to using the word gay is to've lost half the battle" (Amen Brother. We gotta keep 'em DOWN on the farm.)

Frank fplowed this with a lecture on getting one"s known point of veiw across in public- for our benefit, of course.

1) Do your homework before you speak out. Do research, listen carefully, and always double check the accuracy of your facts and their sources.
2) Write letters- to newspapers, congress people and state legislators, and call T. V. stations whenever they present a program on gays. Your letters will have a "multiplier effect", which means that people who read them will thill think that each letter represents the feelings of ten others on the issues.
3) Call in on radio shows or T. V shows
4) Talk to friends and neighbors- you are involving yourself in what is c called "two stage opinion formation", in which people hear a lot of things but they don"t know what to think. Tell them what you think, and they will likely think the same thing after that.
5) join the Lehigh Valley Coalition for Human Rights (Frank said join C.O.D.- just you dare!)

We will answer Frank at the right time and place. In the meantime, we are very interested in hearing everything he has to say.

We will be opening a post office box for the group in the near future.

A lot of people got mad about the advertisement by the Citizens Caucus, and a lot more realized how tough getting rights was going to be. Bring them to the meeting where they can do some good.

LE-HI-HO

LE-HI-HO will meet on Sunday , October 30th at the Unitarian Church of the Lehigh Valley. 701 Lechauweki Ave., Fountain Hill (up from the Mobil Station on Susquehanna-Broadway). A little wine and cheese should help them through a sobering discussion of gay rights in Allentown. You are invited.

LGBT History Project
of the LGBT Center of Central PA

Located at Dickinson College
Archives & Special Collections

http://archives.dickinson.edu/

Documents Online

Title: *Citizens Concerned for a Better Community (CCBC) Newsletter*

Date: October [27], 1977

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:
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